

REMARKS

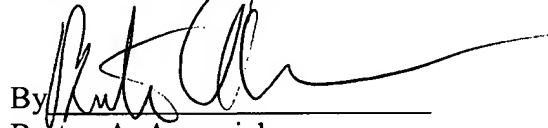
The above amendments to the claims merely remove the multiple dependencies and therefore do not limit the scope of the amended claims. The newly added claims correspond to original claims 3-5 except that their dependency differs. The amendment to the claims and newly added claims do not introduce any new matter.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21581-00314-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 23, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



By
Burton A. Amernick

Registration No.: 24,852
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-3425
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant